

THE FIRST WORD



First Christian Church
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Spring 2019

May 16, 2019

Dear Members and Friends,

From your Pastor

They say (not sure who “they” are) but they say, “A picture is worth a thousand words.” Interesting quote. A picture can show a place, give directions, explain a time, even express emotions without uttering a sound.

Pictures, for the most part, are reflections of the 4 w’s: who, what, where and when. I would like to dwell on the “who” for just a few moments.

There is a wonderful verse in 2 Corinthians, chapter 3, verse 18 that says, “And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the spirit.” Simply put, and my apologies to Paul, this verse means as we start to believe and see the truth of God, we are transformed and changed and begin to reflect His glory in our lives and become a living picture to others.

Have you ever thought of yourselves as a living picture? Does your picture reflect love, compassion, cheerfulness, a desire to help others? As you peer in the mirror, do you see God’s love looking back?

On June 12th, we will all come to the church to have our pictures taken for a new directory. Something that we have needed for quite some time. What will our pictures reflect and tell about who we are?

“A *single* picture is worth a thousand words.” But together, our pictures have the ability to reflect God’s perfect love to the world a million times more, because of “who” we are.

In Peace, Rich

WHAT: Directory Pictures

WHERE: First Christian Church

WHEN: June 12, 2019 2:00 – 9:00 pm

WHO: All of you!

Sign-up sheets will be available after worship each Sunday for the next 4 weeks.

Submitted photos accepted for those unable to come to the church (ie: shut-ins)

Generational portraits can also be taken.

Call Donita at 419-685-1797 for questions or an appointment time.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

May 25	CPR training 9:00—Noon
May 27	Memorial Day
June 9	Pentecost Sunday
June 12	Directory Pictures 2:00—9:00
June 16	Father's Day
July 4	Independence Day (4th of July Celebration)

CPR TRAINING

. The Ruggles—Troy Volunteer Fire Department will be leading a CPR class here at the church May 25th from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Contact Rich to enroll. This is a wonderful opportunity to be certified, or recertified in Life Saving Techniques.

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

*We are planning another Bible Study to begin sometime after July 1st.
The subject studied will be on Prayer. Details of times and material to follow.*

Pastor Rich has office hours on **Tuesdays - 10:00 to 2:00.**

You can also call the office if you need a different time to meet with him. 419-289-7439



Just a reminder!

For security reasons, we are now locking our two doors at the south end of the church during our service on Sunday morning. You will need to use the sanctuary entrance if you arrive after 10:30.

Baby Bottle Campaign



Through your generosity, we raised \$1,105.39 in loose change for the Ashland Pregnancy Center during the month of April!



FCC PAVILION

Our beautiful pavilion is available for parties and family gatherings.

For information, rental fees, etc. please contact Shelley Carpenter

through the church office. (419-289-7439). Please leave a message and we will get back to you.



On **Mother's Day**, May 12th during the Children's message, Pastor Rich had Matt & Molly Henderson's children, Brendan, Marlee, & Emmy, pass out candy kisses to all the mothers in attendance. It was very "sweet"!



GUEST SPEAKER

The Rev. Dean Pierce, Chaplain of the Brethren Care facility of Ashland will be our guest speaker on **Sunday June 2nd**. Dean began his Pastoral ministry in 1986 with the Wesleyan Church and was ordained in 1990. He has served in both the Greater Ohio and Illinois districts. He did his undergrad work at Mt. Vernon Nazarene University and his graduate work at Ashland Theological Seminary. Dean served at Burt Avenue Wesleyan Church in Coshoc-ton, Ohio, helped establish Bridge Builders Divorce Recovery for the county and served at DeKalb Wesleyan Church in DeKalb, IL. He helped establish Moses Basket Diaper Ministry and helped transition two mono-ethnic congregations into a multi-ethnic ministry known as Real Connection Church. At the present time he is the Campus Chaplain for the Brethren Care Village Community here in Ashland. Dean and his wife Rachel have three children and three grandchildren.

REGIONAL TRANSITION TEAM

On May 11th, Pastor Rich attended a regional meeting in Columbus. Over the past 2 months DOC churches in Ohio have been asked to answer questions (the questionnaires we filled out, and the RTT meeting held at our church in March) concerning the role the Regional office, and what direction and actions we should be taking. A copy of the Team's findings and their recommendations are available. If you are interested please see Pastor Rich



GRADUATES HONORED!

On **Sunday, May 19th**, we will be honoring Lexie Shakley, David Gearhart and Shawn Brady for their accomplishments. Lexie graduated from the University of Toledo with a degree in Human Resource Management and a minor in Business Management. David and Shawn both graduated from Ashland High School. David will be furthering his education at Westminster College in PA., and Shawn will be attending Ashland University. Please join us in congratulating and wishing them full and rewarding lives.



July 4th Celebration

We will again host a Fireworks Party on our front lawn. This is a wonderful opportunity to express God's Love to our community by providing front row seats to the fireworks, free parking, water, popcorn, ice cream, and restrooms!

Please pray for our shut-ins and homebound members.



Joyce Bradley, Sherry burns, Jane Foster, Dick Gordon, Carol Imhoff, Betty Imperio, Bernice Lambert, Jane McVey, Kate Miller, Wanda Mish, Dick Scott, Wayne Smith, Gertrude & Keith Sparks, Dale Wells, and Albert Zimmerman. Please keep Mary Ann Welch and her family in your prayers. Marilyn Franklin is now at Kingston and Al Zimmerman is in Good Shepherd. A visit, call or a card means so much to those members and friends who can't be here with us each week.



**First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
1425 King Road
Ashland, Ohio 44805
419-289-7439
Rich Pate, Pastor
Brian Nabors, Director of Music
firstchristchurch@zoominternet.net
Pastor-Rich @zoominternet.net**